



“I’ve gained confidence in my abilities, developed my leadership skills and opened my eyes to all that there is outside my little bubble. My life has changed for the better because of MUN. It gave me friends and a purpose.”

— Annika, 11th grader



WHAT IF



YOUNG PEOPLE RAN THE WORLD?

AT YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS, THEY DO.



WHAT IS MODEL UNITED NATIONS?

Model United Nations (Model UN) is a hands-on civic learning program where students in grades 7–12 take on the role of diplomat from one of 193 countries, engage in respectful discussions about the state of the world, and explore solutions to international challenges.

Model UN starts in late fall when students join or form a delegation at their school. Delegations meet regularly to research countries, prepare for program areas, and practice presentation skills. In late March, more than 500 students gather in downtown Minneapolis for the annual Model UN conference, where they meet in program area groups to discuss and debate global issues, pass resolutions, form diplomatic alliances, and draft legal opinions while practicing cooperation and diplomacy.

But it's not all work! There are two nights at the Minneapolis Marriott, the chance to explore a variety of food options in the skyway, and fun evening activities.

WHAT PROGRAM AREAS CAN I CHOOSE FROM?

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Present and debate your country's viewpoint in committee and propose solutions to world problems to the General Assembly, the main policymaking body of the United Nations.

SECURITY COUNCIL: Investigate issues that could lead to international conflict and resolve crisis situations of safety and security using consensus and careful negotiation.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL: Research and discuss topics like the environment, water access and sustainable development to propose solutions that keep economies strong and improve the lives of people worldwide.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: Learn about vulnerable and marginalized groups of people and develop proposals to address past and current abuses.

GLOBAL FORUM: Learn about and discuss current global issues using economics, education, the human condition, diplomacy, and security as lenses to explore effective solutions.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE: Resolve disputes between member states, debate how to interpret treaties, and make important decisions based on international law.

MEDIA: Conduct interviews, write articles and opinion pieces, film important events at Model UN, and report on election results.

CONFERENCE RESOURCE CENTER: Represent and advocate for various United Nations agencies, analyze resolutions to determine budget requirements, and administer elections at the conference.

WHY SHOULD YOU PARTICIPATE IN MODEL UN?

Model UN is an experience like no other. At Model UN, you will:

- Explore relevant, global issues and how they affect your life.
- Practice using cooperation and diplomacy to influence others.
- Meet students from different racial, cultural, economic, and political backgrounds.
- Build self-confidence and improve your public speaking skills.
- Gain skills that set you apart in college applications and job interviews.

Participating in Model UN helps you develop into an informed, global citizen who understands why nations approach issues differently and how those differences affect policies and politics locally, regionally, and worldwide.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO PARTICIPATE?

Program registration is \$399 and includes all meetings and resources for the 3+ month program season, two nights' lodging, private meeting spaces and overnight security at the hotel, and evening activities. Delegations may choose to add additional fees. Ask your delegation director for total program costs as well as how to apply for financial assistance.

Our program is open to students of all backgrounds, opinions, and regions of the state, and we meet 100% of demonstrated financial need. **IF YOU ARE COMMITTED TO ATTENDING MODEL UN, WE ARE COMMITTED TO GETTING YOU THERE.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, GO TO [YMCAYOUTHVOICE.ORG](https://ymcayouthvoice.org)

No delegation at your school? Email michael.wall@ymcamn.org or call 612-263-9893 and we will help get one started or connect you with our statewide delegation!

IMPORTANT DATES*

- Registration Opens: January 30, 2024
- Country Lottery Opens: January 30, 2024
- Registration Closes: February 27, 2024
- LAUNCH Training Event: Early March
- Model UN Conference: April 4–6, 2024

*Each delegation holds program meetings at a time and location of their choosing to prepare for the conference.

WHY MODEL UNITED NATIONS? BECAUSE DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION.